

# 2024 Year-in-Review



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*Chairperson of YPM103*

*Past Chairperson-Elect of YPM104*

# Executive Summary

As the Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc. (YPM) enters the third year after returning back to in-person operations, we have continued to grow significantly within the community. Our mission this fiscal year was to improve the experience of our Membership, before and during Session. This goal proved successful as we filled 60% of our Cabinet positions with returning Members. Building on last year's successful recruitment operations, YPM's membership continued to grow and broke a new record of 94 active participants at the 103rd Session.

Cabinet meetings took place at the University of Winnipeg, UWSA Boardroom, where we worked hard on tasks and engaged in professional development. Two of our alumni, Andrew Jones and Deborah Tsao, joined us to present learning modules for our Cabinet Members. The team was able to bond during our 2-day Cabinet Retreat camping at Birds Hill Provincial Park. We were greeted with clear skies and warm weather this year, unlike the unfortunate downpour of the previous year.

Speaker's Night was unfortunately cancelled due to the difficulties in securing a guest speaker. However, it was replaced with a coffee house event hosted at Good Earth Coffeehouse - Bridgwater. This new event was a huge success as we saw a turnout of 39 Members and friends who enjoyed a nice evening of boardgames, coffee, and snacks.

Most notably, we held our 103rd Session at the Legislature this year, with our 94 participants filling up the Legislative Chamber to its limit. Members debated 3 pieces of legislation from bill-presenting ministers and 2 private members' bills.

Our Lieutenant Governor this year was The Honourable Alicia Dueck-Read. Alan Campbell, alumnus and President of the Manitoba and Canada School Board Associations, served as our Honorary President. Doris Young served as our Traditional Knowledge Keeper, offering valuable teachings at the beginning and end of Session.

The year of 2024 was successful in creating many amazing memories for our Members. Entering the new year, we continue to strengthen our position within the community. The team of volunteers are grateful to make a lasting impact on many Manitoba youths. We will continue our hard work to make YPM even better!



Xiao Zhang, Chairperson of the 103rd Youth Parliament of Manitoba

# 2024 Fiscal Year Financials

See actuals attached at the end of this report.

The 2024 fiscal year ran a surplus of \$3020.78. The primary causes of this surplus was the successful accrual of donations from local companies and lack of transportation costs for GMSF recipients.

Our focus of the year was to continue selling leftover inventory from the previous year. This allowed us to clear out old stock in preparations of a significant overhaul next year. Additionally, the canteen stand generated significant revenue, selling a variety of items from food to memorabilia.

Overnight accommodations at Kelvin High School remained at a similar rate compared to previous years. We're grateful for the generous discount from Winnipeg School Division and Kelvin High School, in support of our youth-run non-profit organization.

Due to our increasing membership, we saw an increase in food costs throughout Session. This will be reflected more clearly in future budgets. Luckily, our decreased expenses in other sectors was able to bring in enough revenue to offset the increase in food costs.

Fundraising for our endowment fund and Garry McLean Scholarship Fund (GMSF) was not successful. This is due to a low priority focus on these two items. However, we established additional working relationships with various schools across Winnipeg to sponsor students to attend YPM. Similarly, our Minister of Revenue connected with local companies who graciously supported YPM through donations in-kind. We continue to receive donations from a YPM-affiliated vending machine run by our alumnus Taylor Daigneault.

Our large endowment fund continues to provide stability in regular operations. We aim to form more corporate partnerships to continue the growth of our endowment fund and GMSF. Similarly, we hope to further our connections with schools and school divisions to sponsor more students to attend Session.

# Events

In April, we held our Annual General Meeting where El-Shaddai, an alumna of YPM, joined us as a guest speaker. Members heard a State of the Corporation address, a Year-in-Review presentation, and a report on the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Amendments to the organization's governing documents were completed by SOBLOC and passed.

In July, we held an in-person Cabinet Retreat at Birds Hill Provincial Park. Our newly-appointed Cabinet played icebreakers, swam, enjoyed the weather, and made smores at the campfire.

Speaker's Night was replaced by Coffeehouse at Good Earth Coffeehouse, which was held in October. Members of YPM and friends within the community joined to play board games, drink coffee, and enjoy some delicious snacks.

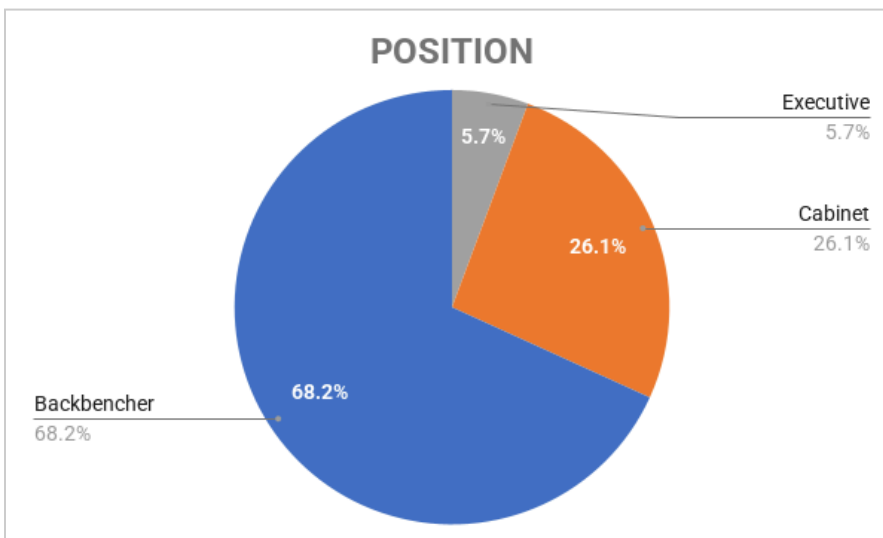
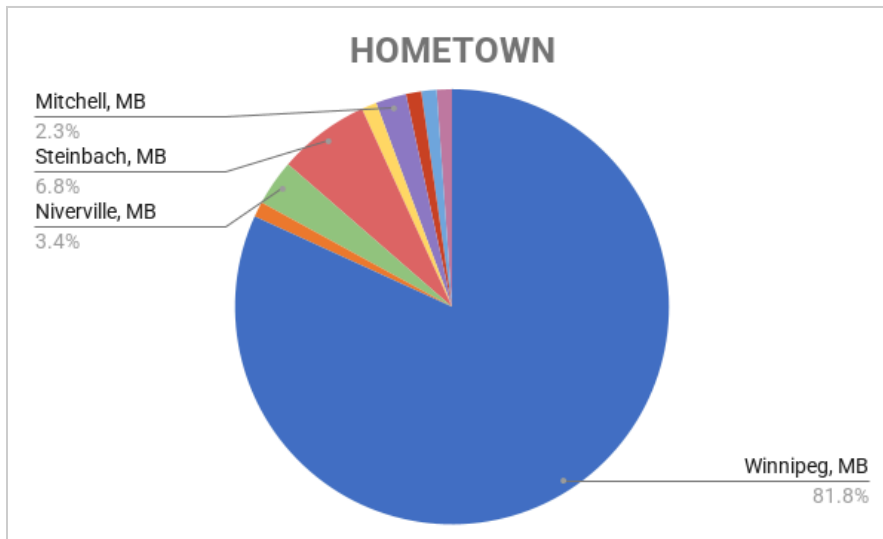
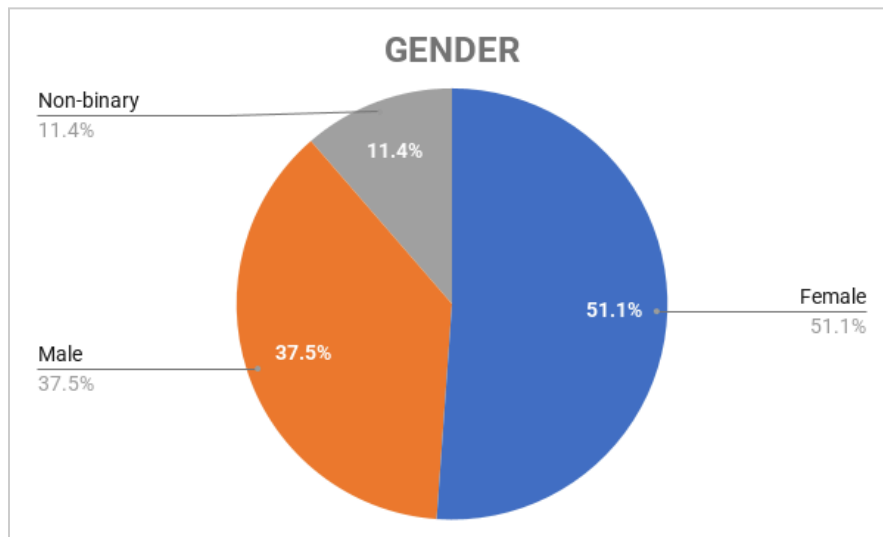
Throughout the year, our Ministry of Internal Affairs hosted regular hang-out sessions after our Cabinet meetings. These informal gatherings were integral to allowing Cabinet members to get to know each other better outside of meetings.

For Cabinet meetings, which took place at the University of Winnipeg, we formalized the inclusion of professional development modules, wherein the Executive presented on topics such as time management and writing professional emails. Similarly, alumni also joined to present learning modules on topics that Cabinet members vote on. A module by Andrew Jones focused on tips for productivity and succeeding in school. Another module by Deborah Tsao talked about time management, including common pitfalls and lifehacks to improve work efficiency.

The Ministry of External Affairs organized a Paint Night, which was very relaxing and fun. This event was followed by the Backbencher hangout and info session, in collaboration with our Registrar General.

Session itself was held from December 26-31, 2024. There were 94 Members in attendance. Daytime debate occurred at the Manitoba Legislative Building, evening activities/overnights at Kelvin High School. We were fortunate to receive enthusiastic and insightful contributions from former MLAs and MPs at Bear Pit, where Jon Gerrard, Myrna Philipps, Gord Mackintosh, Sarah Guillemard answered questions from members in attendance and reflected on their time in politics. The Progressive Conservatives, Manitoba Liberals, New Democratic Party, and the Green Party of Manitoba all hosted luncheons where members had the opportunity to hear from them as well.

## Attendee Information



## Backbencher Feedback

At the end of Session, we distributed a survey to backbenchers (members not on our organizing committee, most of whom are first-year participants). The response rate was 49/60 (82%). The average is reported on a scale of 1–10 (poor–excellent).

- In general, how did you feel about the 101st Session? **8.9**
  - How did you feel about the quality and variety of legislation debated at Session? **8.5**
  - How did you feel about the moderation and quality of debate at Session (being recognized when you wanted to speak, feeling engaged, hearing thought-provoking ideas)? **7.7**
  - How did you feel about the political party luncheons (PC, NDP, Liberal, Green Party) and the Q&A period? **8.1**
  - How did you feel about the Bear Pit with former MLAs? **7.7**
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## Testimonials

**“The moderation of the session was organized and professional**, allowing everyone to express their views. The quality of the debate was thoughtful, with participants presenting strong arguments and engaging respectfully. It created a productive environment for discussing important topics.”

“Everyone had different perspectives, and while not everyone was always chosen to speak I feel **I heard lot of different ideas from lots of different people.**”

“In the beginning, I was quite nervous to put out my opinion, but eventually, **I kinda got comfortable and was able to speak about my opinions and my thoughts.**”

“I [wasn’t] as comfortable at first because I didn’t know anyone, it was a new setting so i was kind of taken back since I felt a little overwhelmed but **at the end I felt confident saying my opinions and speaking in chamber** because of the amazing cabinet that made me [feel very] welcomed.”

“I felt nervous at first but **receiving notes from people after helped to ease the stress** from presenting.”



## Cabinet Feedback

As with the backbencher survey, we distributed a survey to Cabinet members about their experience on the team. The response rate was 18/23 (78%). The average is reported on a scale of 1–10 (poor–excellent).

- Overall, how much did you enjoy your experience on Cabinet this year? **9.2**
  - How well prepared did you feel to complete your tasks, and how well did you understand the tasks that you needed to complete? **8.0**
  - How comfortable did you feel as being a leader to backbenchers at Session? **9.3**
  - Overall, how cohesive and friendly did Cabinet seem to you this year? **7.9**
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### **“What did you learn as part of being on Cabinet this year?”**

**“During YPM103, I learned how to manage my time at Session and I learned integral skills of collaboration. I also believe I improved my writing, designing, and other creative skills.”**

**“I feel like I’ve grown and matured** a lot this year while being on Cabinet, as it has given me the opportunity to practice my professional communication skills and to collaborate and work with others. I’ve also learned how to share and divide tasks, and set timelines and deadlines for myself to ensure I complete my tasks on time.”

**“I learned that people will be there for me when things aren’t always going as planned** and that we can always accommodate the schedule to make things work. **I learned that it is okay to fall back and ask for help if I need it**, which is really hard for me sometimes because I can be stubborn and not know/won’t always admit when I need help.”

**“You won’t see eye to eye with everyone but you can still see the humanity in them.”**

**“Leadership, teamwork, and responsibility.”**

**“Self confidence.”**

**“Teamwork.”**